

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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R 211430Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4672

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 14106

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJECT: INDO-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

1. IN GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON OCT. 21 ON INDO-PAK RELATIONS BETWEEN POL COUNSELOR AND MEA JOINT SECRETARY FOR PAKISTAN (CHIB), CHIB NOTED THAT GENERAL TREND OF INDO-PAK RELATIONS SINCE THE SEPTEMBER 14 MEETINGS IN ISLAMABAD HAS CONTINUED TO BE FAVORABLE.

2. AS A RESULT OF AN EXTENSIVE SERIES OF EXCHANGES AT THE WORKING LEVEL OVER THE LAST MONTH, THE PAKISTANIS AND INDIANS HAVE AGREED THAT BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1 EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO RESTRAIN "HOSTILE" PROPAGANDA ON THE RADIOS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. THE DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES REVOLVED AROUND PROBLEMS OF DEFINITION AS TO WHAT WAS "HOSTILE" AND, CHIB SAID, WHILE THERE WILL INEVITABLE CONTINUE TO BE SOME FRICTIONS IN THIS AREA, BOTH HE AND PAKISTAN JOINT SECRETARY SATTAR APPEARED TO BE OPTIMISTIC THAT THESE MIGHT NOW BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM.

3. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA LAST WEEK PROPOSED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ON CIVIL AVIATION BEGIN NOVEMBER 15 IN NEW DELHI. CHIB
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APPEARED TO ACCEPT THE PAKISTANI ARGUMENT THAT THE ABSENCE OF

PAKISTANI CIVIL AVIATION EXPERTS IN MONTREAL FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, AS WELL AS THE INABILITY OF FOREIGN MINISTER AZIZ AHMED TO FOCUS ON THIS ISSUE AS A RESULT OF ILL HEALTH, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DELAYS. WHILE PAKISTAN HAS NOT AS YET RESPONDED TO THE INDIAN PROPOSAL, CHIB THOUGHT A FAVORABLE RESPONSE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. HE SAID THAT PROBABLY AT LEAST TWO AND PERHAPS THREE SEPARATE ROUNDS OF MEETINGS WULD BE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THE OUTSTANDING AVIATION ISSUES BUT THAT, ON THE BASIS OF HIS INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS IN ISLAMABAD IN SEPTEMBER, HE THOUGHT HE SAW THE PROSPECTS FOR RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES IN THIS AREA.

4. THE GOI ALSO LATE LAST WEEK EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO THE PAKISTANIS TO SEND A TRADE DELEGATION TO INDIA ON NOVEMBER 26. CHIB SAID THAT, WHILE IT WAS OF COURSE TO EARLY TO EXPECT ANY RESPONSE TO THAT SPECIFIC INVITATION, SINCE THE INVITATION FOR SUCH VISITS HAS COME FROM THE PAKISTANI SIDE, HE SAW NO DIFFICULTY IN PAKISTAN'S ACCEPTING THE INVITATION ALTHOUGH IT WAS POSSIBLE THE ACTUAL DATE MIGHT BE ALTERED.

5. BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO ISSUE VISAS UNDER THE NEW VISA AGREEMENT ALTHOUGH FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE AGREEMENT HAS GONE INTO EFFECT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE MADE FOR ANOTHER ONE OR TWO WEEKS. MAIL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXCHANGES HAVE BEEN PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY SINCE THEY WERE INITIATED LAST WEEK.

6. CHIB SAID THAT THE PAKISTANIS HAD NOT AS YET MADE ANY COMMENT OR RESPONDED IN ANY WAY TO THE INDIAN OFFER TO EXCHANGE SCIENTISTS, AND PARTICULARLY FOR PAKISTANI SCIENTISTS TO VISIT INDIAN NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS, OR TO THE INDIAN OFFER TO PROVIDE PAKISTAN WITH THE RESULTS OF THE INDIAN PNE TEST LAST MAY.

7. CHIB VOLUNTEERED THAT IF THE CIVIL AVIATION AND TRADE DISCUSSIONS WENT WELL, THIS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION FOR A SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER GANDHI AND PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO NEXT YEAR.

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